

and second of November, have significantly fused in popular usage into a single festival of the dead. In fact, the people pay little or no heed to the saints and give all their thoughts to the souls of their departed kinsfolk. The Feast of All Souls begins immediately after vespers on All Saints' Day. Even on the eve of All Saints' Day, that is, on the thirty-first of October, which we call Hallowe'en, the graveyard is cleaned and every grave adorned. The decoration consists in weeding the mounds, sprinkling a layer of charcoal on the bare earth, and marking out patterns on it in red service-berries. The marigold, too, is still in bloom at that season in cottage gardens, and garlands of its orange blooms, mingled with other late flowers left by the departing summer, are twined about the grey mossgrown tombstones. The basin of holy water is filled with fresh water and a branch of box-wood put into it; for box-wood in the popular mind is associated with death and the dead. On the eve of All Souls' Day the people begin to visit the graves and to offer the soul-cakes to the hungry souls. Next morning, before eight o'clock, commence the vigil, the requiem, and the solemn visitation of the graves. On that day every household offers a plate of meal, oats, and spelt on a side-altar in the church ; while in the middle of the sacred edifice a bier is set, covered with a pall, and surrounded by lighted tapers and vessels of holy water. The tapers burnt on that day and Indeed generally in services for the departed are red. In the evening people go, whenever they can do so, to their native village, where their dear ones lie in the churchyard ; and

there at the graves they pray for the poor  
souls, and leave  
an offering of soul-cakes also on a side-altar in  
the church.  
The soul-cakes are baked of dough In the shape  
of a coil of  
hair and are made of all sizes up to three feet  
long. They  
form a perquisite of the sexton.<sup>1</sup>

The custom of baking soul-cakes, sometimes called  
simply Soui-cr  
" souls," on All Souls' Day is widespread in Southern  
Germany g<sup>^</sup>)<sup>1</sup>  
and Austria ;<sup>2</sup> everywhere, we may assume, the cakes  
were inSout  
originally Intended for the benefit of the hungry dead,  
though Gerra

<sup>1</sup> Karl Freiherr von Leoprechting, <sup>2</sup> O. Freiherr von  
Reinsberg-Dür-  
Aus dem Lcchrain (Munich, 1855), pp. ingsfeld, Das  
festliche Jahr (Leipsic,  
198-200. 1863), p. 330. As to  
these cakes